**Exploration of Gas and Oil Reserve**

2006. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where petroleum and natural gas have been found out and are being explored;

(b) the quantity in the oil and gas reserves of different States;

(c) the quantity of gas in Tripura that may be lifted each day; and

(d) the status of the proposals to establish gas-based thermal projects in Tripura on the initiaive of the ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil and natural gas has been found in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura. Exploration activities for hydrocarbon exploration are being carried out in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal besides the East and West coast offshore areas.

(b) The balance recoverable oil and gas reserves in the country are 1658 million metric tonne (MMT) falling in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura as well as offshore areas including deepwater.

(c) At present, the gas production potential in Tripura is about 4.2 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre per Day (MMSCMD) and sale/consumption is about 1.15 MMSCMD leaving the balance gas untapped.

(d) Feasibility study on generation of power by utilizing gas available in Tripura is at a preliminary stage.

**Joint venture of oil companies**

2007. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering or have decided to form a joint venture of all public sector oil companies for overseas aspirations and interests in entire petro chain;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the status and the role of ONGC Videsh Limited after the formation of the Joint Venture corporate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) ONGC Videsh Limited continues to be the leading agency for taking up various E&P opportunities abroad.

**Allotment of petrol pumps in Special Category**

2008. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against some rich and influential persons of general category for having got benami allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies actually earmarked for SC/ST;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints, State-wise, particularly from Punjab;

(c) the action taken against the persons who got such benami allotments in their names and the oil marketing companies which made these benami allotments, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken to stop such benami allotments of petrol pumps/ LPG agencies initially allotted to SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During the current financial year *i.e.*, 2004-2005, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have received complaints against/identified five cases of benami allotment/operation of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), which are earmarked for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes category. These cases relate to the States of Bihar (one case of IOC), Uttar Pradesh (one case of IOC), Tamil Nadu (one case of BPCL), Andhra Pradesh (one case of HPCL) and Karnataka (one case of HPCL). While in one case of Andhra Pradesh the allegation was found to be baseless after inquiry, in the remaining four cases the oil company concerned is conducting investigations.